



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS 77 MEXICAN NATIONALS ON WEEKLY FLIGHT

CHICAGO — Javier Mesa-Rios, 33, convicted of shooting a man to death during a robbery attempt in 1995, was one of 77 Mexican nationals deported last Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Half of those removed, 38, had criminal convictions for violations ranging from murder and sexual assault, to burglary and drug possession. This large number of removals in one week reflects the national trend of increased deportations as ICE pursues its objective of restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system.



Mesa-Rios was convicted in Cook County in 1997 on charges of first-degree murder and attempted armed robbery. According to the indictment, Mesa-Rios shot and killed Fidel Martinez with a handgun during an attempt to rob Martinez and another individual. He was sentenced to 20 years on the murder charge and five years on the attempted armed robbery charge, to run concurrently. Mesa-Rios, who illegally entered the U.S. by crossing the southwest border just a month before committing the murder, was released from prison July 13 and turned over to ICE for deportation.

ICE's Chicago Office, which encompasses Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri, is responsible for detaining and deporting aliens in accordance with immigration laws.

ICE Chicago deports aliens to Mexico on a weekly Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) flight that makes stops in Chicago and Kansas City. JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world - handling hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and criminal aliens nationally and internationally.

"A priority for ICE is to get criminals off our streets and keep America secure," said ICE Field Office Director Debbie Achim, who leads detention and removal operations for Chicago. "We are bringing to bear the full force of our authorities to locate and remove these criminals from the U.S."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.